



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/781,689	02/12/2001	Roman P. Kresina	770P009596-US (PAR)	6139
2512	7590	08/04/2005	EXAMINER	
PERMAN & GREEN 425 POST ROAD FAIRFIELD, CT 06824			BASS, JON M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3639	
DATE MAILED: 08/04/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/781,689

Applicant(s)

KRESINA ET AL.

Examiner

Jon Bass

Art Unit

3639

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2001.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4-7,9,10,12,14-19 and 22-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4-7,9,10,12,14-19 and 22-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

1. This is in response to an amendment. In the amendment, claims 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 12, 14-19, and 22-26 are pending in this letter.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that the prior art taught by Kunde in view of Yeung fails to teach the inventive concept of key management, postal funds, or postal rates. The Examiner respectfully disagrees with the characteristics described by the applicant for the following reasons.

Yeung discloses a method and system wherein said services include at least one selected from the group consisting of: a key management update; postal funds update; a software updating system (col.2, lines 28-30; application software); a postal rate updating system(col.4, lines 40-43; values of postal products); an address cleansing system (col.1, lines 65-67; generates addresses); a postal account management system (col.4, lines 9-14; all accounts, commercial and debit); and a postal statistics server system (col.4, lines 43-45; verified according to statistical basis) .

The Applicant stated that the above reference lacks the plurality of remote postage printing stations connected to an infrastructure. The Examiner respectfully disagrees with the characteristics described by the applicant for the following reasons. Kunde mentions, within the body of his specification, a base station that is fashioned for communication with further stations, (col.2, lines 56-57); He also further includes that a shipping system, printing machine, while in conjunction with a postage meter machine is within the limits of the current invention, (col.2, lines 62-67). As a result, knowing the capabilities of a remote postage printing station and understanding the functionality of an infrastructure, the above information clearly recites this process.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 23 and 25 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

#20 Control processor 4 may be any of the widely available microprocessor which are capable of executing printing commands according to software which is resident on memory 5. Such software could also be implemented as firmware in the form of an ASIC that comprises a part of control processor 4. Memory 5 will support the operation of the franking system 20 and have algorithms stored therein for executing tasks, such as printing postage or shipping charges and addresses and compiling accounting history, customer address data, and customer accounting.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. **Claims 9, 16, 18, 23, 24, 25 and 26** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Linda Gravell et al., (US Patent No: 6,546,377) hereinafter referenced as Gravell.

As Per Claim 9:

Gravell discloses a method and system wherein each of said postal printing stations has a monitor for determining when any service is being provided, said monitor initiating a signal to said remote postal printing stations, [{fig.1, 22} printer] that a service being provided is acceptable to said remote postal printing stations.

As Per Claim 16:

Gravell discloses a method wherein one of said interfaces is a default interface which is used first to attempt to establish communications [{fig 1, 32, 34} communication server and function server]; and the other of said interfaces is a backup interface, used if said infrastructure fails to establish communications.

As Per Claim 18:

Gravell discloses a method comprising using said plurality of application programming interfaces simultaneously, [{fig.1, 36} database server, which is where the programming functions occur].

Art Unit: 3639

As Per Claim 23:

Gravell discloses a system for providing postal services comprising:

A plurality of remote postal printing stations for applying postal indicia, said postal printing stations having a software product for managing communications, [{fig.1, 22} printer which also is used as a postage meter., {fig. 1, 36, has software for communication].;

A postal system infrasture connected to said remote postal printing station for communication therewith, said infrasteucture comprising, [{fig.1, illustrates an infrastrucuture]:

A server/router for establishing and controlling communication connections between the postal printing stations and the infrastructure, [{fig.1, 32, 34}, communication server, which allow communication];

A key management system(KMS) for managing cryptographic functions of the postal stations, [{fig.1, 38}, key management system

A telemetering system (TMS) for managing funds and audit information concerning the use of the funds in the postal printing stations, [{fig.3, 220}, verify adequate funds];

At least one postal application server for providing a plurality of services through said server/router to said remote postal printing stations, when said remote stations, when said stations access the infrastructure, [{fig.3, 36} database server];

At least one non-postal application server for providing a plurality of services, other than postal service, through said server/router to said remote postal printing stations, when said remote stations access the infrastructure, [{fig.3, 36} database server]; and

wherein said server/router comprises multiple socket servers, each socket server accepting connections on a particular socket port, each of said socket ports being representative of one said services, for routing the connections to the services within the infrastructure, [multiple

Art Unit: 3639

sockets are port that allow additional serer to be connected, {fig.1, 20} computer has multiple sockets].

As Per Claim 24:

Gravell discloses a system according to claim 23, wherein all communication with the server/router is conducted using the TCP/IP protocol, [{fig.1, 10} network provider].

As Per Claim 25:

Gravell discloses a method for providing postal services comprising the steps of providing a plurality of remote postal printing stations for appling postal indicia with means for managing communications, [{fig.3, 225}, print postage;

establishing a postal system infrastructure and connecting said infrastructure to said remote postal printing stations for communications therewith, and further within said infrastructure comprising the steps of, [{fig.1, illustrates the infrastructure]:

establishing and controlling communications connections between hr postal printing stations and the infrastructure, [{fig.1, 32}, communication server];

managing cryptographic functions of the postal stations, [{fig.1, 38}key management];

managing funds and audit information concerning the use of the funds in the postal printing stations, [{fig.1, 22}, printers;

providing a plurality of postal services through said infrastructure to said remote postal printing stations, when said remote stations access the infrastructure;

providing plurality of services, other than postal services through said infrastructure to said remote postal printing station, when said remote stations access the infrastructure, ; and

establishing connections by multiple socket servers within a server/router, each socket server accepting connections on a particular socket port, each of said socket ports being

Art Unit: 3639

representative of one of sid services, for routing the connections to the services with in the infrastructure, [multiple sockets are port that allow additional serer to be connected, {fig.1, 20} computer has multiple sockets].

As Per Claim 26:

Gravell discloses the method according to claim 23, wherein all communications are conducted using TCP/IP protocol, [{fig.1,10}, network provider].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 2, 4, 10, 12, 14, and 22 are rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Linda Gravell et al., (US Patent No: 6,546,377) hereinafter referenced as Gravell in further view of Yukee Yeung et al. (US Patent No 6,101,487) hereinafter referenced as Yeung.

As Per Claim 2:

Gravell discloses a method and system wherein key management update (fig.1, 38, key management) and postal funds update, [{fig.3, 220}, verify adequate funds] but lacks,
a software updating system;
a postal rate updating system;

Art Unit: 3639

an address cleansing system; a postal account management system;
and a postal statistics server system.

Yeungl discloses a method and system wherein said services include at least one selected from the group consisting of: a software updating system (col.2, lines 28-30; application software); a postal rate updating system(col.4, lines 40-43; values of postal products); an address cleansing system (col.1, lines 65-67; generates addresses); a postal account management system (col.4, lines 9-14; all accounts, commercial and debit); and a postal statistics server system (col.4, lines 43-45; verified according to statistical basis)

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Gravell's method and system in conjunction with Yeung's system to emulate an invention that deals with a postal funds telemetering system; a software updating system (col.2, lines 28-30; application software); a postal rate updating system (col.4, lines 40-43; values of postal products); an address cleansing system (col.1, lines 65-67; generates addresses); a postal account management system (col.4, lines 9-14; all accounts, commercial and debit); and a postal statistics server system (col.4, lines 43-45; verified according to statistical basis), which additionally verifies the products data and its origin.

As Per Claim 4:

Gravell discloses a method and system but lacks wherein; said services other than postal services include at least one of printing tickets to entertainment events and printing lottery tickets.

Yeung discloses a method and system wherein said services other than postal services include at least one of printing tickets to entertainment events and printing lottery tickets (col.2, lines 62-64), printing machine.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Gravell's method and system in conjunction with Yeung

Art Unit: 3639

system to emulate an invention that deals with said services other than postal services include at least one of printing tickets to entertainment events and printing lottery tickets, printing machine, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin (col.2, lines 62-64).

As Per Claim 10:

Gravell discloses a method wherein said key management system, [{fig.1,38}, key management system], applies a different level of security being provided by said facilities for different ones of said services.

As Per Claim 12:

Gravell discloses a method and system wherein key management update process(fig.1, 38, key management) and postal funds update process, [{fig.3, 220}, verify adequate funds] but lacks,

- a software updating process;
- a postal rate updating process;
- an address cleansing process;
- a postal account management process;
- and a postal statistics acquisition process.

Yeung discloses a method and system wherein said services include at least one selected from the group consisting of: a software updating system (col.2, lines 28-30; application software); a postal rate updating system(col.4, lines 40-43; values of postal products); an address cleansing system (col.1, lines 65-67; generates addresses); a postal account management system (col.4, lines 9-14; all accounts, commercial and debit); and a postal statistics server system (col.4, lines 43-45; verified according to statistical basis)

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Gravell's method and system in conjunction with Yeung's

Art Unit: 3639

system to emulate an invention that deals with a postal funds telemetering system; a software updating system (col.2, lines 28-30; application software); a postal rate updating system (col.4, lines 40-43; values of postal products); an address cleansing system (col.1, lines 65-67; generates addresses); a postal account management system (col.4, lines 9-14; all accounts, commercial and debit); and a postal statistics server system (col.4, lines 43-45; verified according to statistical basis), which additionally verifies the products data and its origin.

As for Claim 14:

Gravell discloses a method and system but lacks wherein; said services other than postal services include at least one of printing tickets to entertainment events and printing lottery tickets.

Yeung discloses a method and system wherein said services other than postal services include at least one of printing tickets to entertainment events and printing lottery tickets (col.2, lines 62-64), printing machine.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Gravell's method and system in conjunction with Yeung system to emulate an invention that deals with said services other than postal services include at least one of printing tickets to entertainment events and printing lottery tickets, printing machine, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin (col.2, lines 62-64).

As for Claim 22:

Gravell discloses a method and system wherein communication between said infrastructure and the remote postage printing stations and using a different level of security for accessing different services, [{fig.1,30} datacenter, is able to verify accounting and postage functions, col.9, lines 33-36.

Art Unit: 3639

5. **Claims 5, 6, 7, 15, 17 and 19 are rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Linda Gravell et al., (US Patent No: 6,546,377) hereinafter referenced as Gravell in further view of Sutherland (6,609,117).

As for Claim 5:

Gravell discloses a method wherein; server includes an interface for Internet communication and an interface for modem communication and the postal; and non- postal applications servers are accessible through connections to the Internet, [{fig.1, 10}], network provider], however Gravell lacks: wherein server includes an interface for Internet communication and an interface for modem communication.

Sutherland discloses a method and system wherein server includes an interface for Internet communication and an interface for modem communication (col.2, lines 31-34), distributing postage over a public network and the postal and non postal applications servers are accessible through connections to the Internet.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Gravell's method and system in conjunction with Sutherland's system to emulate a invention that deals with said communications facility includes an interface for Internet communication and an interface for modem communication, distributing postage over a public network, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin (col.2, lines 31-34).

As Per Claim 6:

Gravell discloses a method and system but lacks wherein, said interface for internet communication includes a remote access server and a plurality of application programming interfaces.

Sutherland discloses a method and system wherein; said interface for internet communication includes a remote access server and a plurality of application programming interfaces (col.4, lines 8-10 and 17-18) and (fig 1, element 20), network interface, public network, and server and stored programs.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Gravell's method and system in conjunction with Sutherland system to emulate a invention that deals interface for internet communication includes a remote access server and a plurality of application programming interfaces, network interface, public network, and server and stored programs, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin (col.4, lines 8-10 and 17-18) and (fig 1, element 20).

As Per Claim 7:

Gravell discloses a method and system but lacks wherein, further comprising a monitor for determining when any service is necessary, said monitor providing a signal to acknowledge that a said can be provided to said remote station.

Sutherland discloses a method and system wherein further comprising monitor for determining when any service is necessary, said monitor providing a signal to acknowledge that a said can be provided to said remote station, (col.4, lines 24-26), video display device used to display output information to an operator on a screen.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Gravell's method and system in conjunction with Sutherland, comprising a monitor for determining when any service is being accessed, said monitor providing a signal to all other services that a service can be provided to said remote station, video display device used to display output information to an operator on a screen, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin (col.4, lines 24-26).

As Per Claim 15:

Gravell discloses a method and system wherein communications facility includes an interface for Internet communication and an interface for modem communication the remote postage printing stations and the infrastructure, and the postal and non postal services are accessible through connections to the Internet, [{fig.1}, displays a infrastructure with a network provider], however Gravell lacks: wherein; said communications facility includes an interface for Internet communication and an interface for modem communication.

Sutherland discloses a method and system wherein; said communications facility includes an interface for Internet communication and an interface for modem communication [(col.2, lines 31-34), distributing postage over a public network],

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Gravell's and method and system in conjunction with Sutherland's system to emulate a invention that deals with said communications facility includes an interface for Internet communication and an interface for modem communication, distributing postage over a public network, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin (col.2, lines 31-34).

As for Claim 17:

Gravells discloses a method and system interface for internet communication includes a remote access server and a plurality of application programming interfaces and providing a remote access server and a plurality of application programming interfaces and using at least two of said application programming interfaces when communication have been established, [{fig.1, 32, 34} communication server, function server with these servers they allow communication.]

Art Unit: 3639

As for Claim 19:

Gravell discloses a method and system that wherein, further comprising a monitor for determining when any service is being accessed, said monitor providing a signal to all other services that a service can be provided to said remote station providing a signal to remote postage printing stations that service is acceptable to said remote stations; and activating services when the signal is received, [{fig.3}], displays process of verification of funds, then prints postage after service is verified].

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

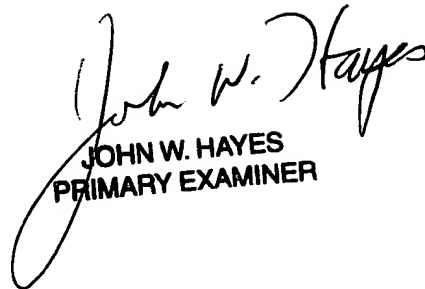
Any inquiry concerning this communication earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Jon Bass whose telephone number is (571)272-6905. The examiner can be reached Monday through Friday 9-6pm.

Any attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached at (571) 272-6708.

Art Unit: 3639

Any response to this action should be mailed to

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450


JOHN W. HAYES
PRIMARY EXAMINER